



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are very excited to welcome all of our students and families back to Livingston Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year. Livingston has an excellent reputation for providing an outstanding education for its students. This reputation has been earned through hard-working, caring, dedicated students, talented staff, and a supportive community. I am thrilled to be joining this community as the Superintendent of Schools, and I know that by working together, we will be able to continue to do great things for the benefit of our students.

I officially began as Superintendent on July 1st. Since then, I have focused on getting to know “all things Livingston.” As part of that process, I have visited each school multiple times, and seen the summer work projects unfold. I have asked as many questions as I possibly can, and have learned so much about the great work that happens here. I have been so impressed with the excellent efforts of our administrators, supervisors, custodians, and support staff who have been preparing the buildings for the upcoming school year since the moment the students departed in June. Everyone has been incredibly welcoming and generous with their time. I know I have landed in a special place, and I am looking forward to being a part of an outstanding team here in Livingston.

Livingston’s schools were recognized this summer by Niche, a school ranking website, as the 3rd highest ranked school district in New Jersey and the 30th ranked district in the nation. This ranking reinforces what we already know, that LPS is a great place for students to learn and grow. While we should be proud to be recognized in this way, it is also important to remember that this is only one assessment of our district. The most important measure of our success is the work our outstanding educators, support staff, and community do each day to help our students thrive as students and as people.

At its August meeting, the Board of Education approved four district goals, which will be focus areas for us during the coming school year. District goals represent priorities for growth, and do not exclude or diminish the many areas in which we consistently strive for excellence. Our district goals for this year are as follows:

- Review and refine strategies to enhance instruction and student learning outcomes in Elementary and Middle School Mathematics, Grades K-8.
- Foster an effective and cohesive leadership team for Livingston Public Schools by actively inducting and integrating new administrators and supervisors into the district.
- Strengthen the culture and community within the Livingston Public Schools by enhancing inclusiveness, cultural awareness, and acceptance of individual differences through instruction, extracurricular programming, and district operations.
- Identify and incorporate effective instructional methodologies that create positive social and emotional support for students.

We are excited about concentrating on these goals as we strive to make our district even stronger over the coming year.

Livingston Public Schools: Empowering all to learn, create, contribute and grow.

We have several new administrators joining our team this year. They have all officially arrived in Livingston, and have started in their new roles. I know you will join me in welcoming them as they begin their important work with our students. We will be officially welcoming all of our new teachers during the week of August 19th. They will be taking part in a weeklong new teacher orientation program. Over the course of the week, we will be familiarizing all of our new teachers to Livingston, acquainting them with our community, and connecting them to our schools and our returning staff. Welcoming our new staff is an exciting step toward getting the school year off to a strong start.

Our custodians and maintenance staff have been working incredibly hard on many projects to improve our facilities for the coming school year. One of the improvements this year is a new, state-of-the-art security communication system that has been installed in each building in the district. The new system is a significant upgrade that will aid in communication between buildings if there is an emergency in the district. We are constantly reflecting on the tools we utilize to keep our students safe at school, and this new system is indicative of Livingston's commitment to continual improvement in this area. All of our schools have had facilities upgrades over the summer. Summer projects included significant media center upgrades in several schools, new and re-finished gymnasium floors, blacktop repaving, roof repairs, painting, and landscape upgrades. The efforts of our staff have been outstanding, as they have worked to ready our schools for the opening of the 2019-2020 school year.

If you have not done so already, please log on to the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) to complete all necessary forms. If you have a student in grade 6-12, they must log on to the [Genesis Student Portal](#) to complete some annual forms as well. Class schedules and assignments will only be available later this week to those family accounts that are up-to-date. [Directions for completing LPS required forms.](#)

Early this summer, our administrative team took part in a reflection activity for which each of us was asked to choose one word that represents our top priority for the 2019-2020 school year. Choosing only one word is a real challenge. Ultimately, the word I chose for myself was "connect." That summarizes my primary goal for this coming school year. I hope to be able to connect with as many members of our community as possible in order to hear everyone's dreams and aspirations for the Livingston Public Schools. I have enjoyed listening and learning so far, and I hope to do so much more of it when our students and staff return. I hope everyone enjoys the remaining days of summer. We are excited to see our schools come fully back to life again in just a couple of weeks!

Sincerely,

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Livingston Public Schools
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Empowering all to Learn, Create, Contribute, and Grow